

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

AEC-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 AF-10 L-03 MC-02 SS-15 NSC-10

DRC-01 /090 W

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R 101115Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8275

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ESTC, PFOR, SZ, RH

SUBJECT: JET AVIATION/BASEL; RHODESIAN ACQUISITION OF BOEING 707'S

REF: (A) BERN 4138; (B) BERN 4062; (C) STATE A-7918

1. DR. GLOOR, SECRETARY OF BOARD OF JET AVIATION/BASEL, CONTACTED EMBASSY OCTOBER 10 TO REQUEST INTERIM LICENSING PRIVILEGES FOR JET AVIATION UNTIL FINAL DECISION MADE ON THAT FIRM'S INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIAN AFFAIR. GLOOR, WHO ALSO ATTORNEY FOR JET AVIATION, SAID THAT LEAR JET WICHITA HAD NOTIFIED JET AVIATION THAT THEY UNABLE CONTINUE EXPORTING LEAR JET PARTS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT TO JET AVIATION. GLOOR CLAIMED THAT ABOUT TWENTY LEAR JET OPERATORS THROUGHOUT EUROPE SERVICED BY JET AVIATION/BASEL, AND THAT IF JET AVIATION UNABLE RECEIVE EQUIPMENT FROM WICHITA, MOST OF THESE AIRCRAFT WOULD SOON BE GROUNDED.

2. GLOOR SAID THAT JET AVIATION HAS PRESENTED ITS CASE TO SWISS FEDERAL AIR OFFICE (WHO IN TURN HAD BRIEFED POLITICAL DEPARTMENT) AND THAT AS FAR AS SWISS AUTHORITIES CONCERNED, JET AVIATION IS "CLEARED" OF COMPLICITY IN RHODESIAN AFFAIR. EMBASSY SUSPECTS THAT JET AVIATION MAY BE "CLEAR" ONLY WITH RESPECT TO SWISS LAWS, INASMUCH AS SWISS HAVE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT

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THIS CASE THAT IT WAS EITHER GERMAN OR FRENCH OR US PROBLEM.

EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED TO DATE NO REACTION DIRECTLY FROM GOS OFFICIALS
DESPITE DISCUSSIONS REPORTED REFS A AND B.

3. EMBASSY ADVISED GLOOR THAT WE WERE AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM
WASHINGTON AND THAT MATTER MAY EVENTUALLY REQUIRE WASHINGTON VISIT
BY JET AVIATION OFFICIALS. FYI: NAME OF HIRSCHMANN DID NOT COME
UP IN OUR DISCUSSIONS EITHER WITH GLOOR OR PREVIOUS DISCUSSION
WITH JET AVIATION OFFICIAL WYATT (REF A).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT AND OEC/CD CONSIDER
GRANTING INTERIM LICENSING PRIVILEGES TO JET AVIATION UNTIL FINAL
DECISION MADE ON THIS CASE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CASE COULD BE
DISPOSED OF IN MORE ORDERLY FASHION IF DENIAL ACTION WITHHELD
UNTIL HARD AND IRREFUTABLE PROOF OF JET AVIATION INVOLVEMENT IN
RHODESIAN AFFAIR IS IN HAND. DENIAL ACTION BASED ON PROOF RATHER
THAN ALLEGATION (AS SEEMS TO BE CURRENTLY THE CASE) WOULD ENHANCE
US POSITION IN ANY EVENTUAL DEALINGS WITH SWISS POLITICAL
DEPARTMENT. IF OEC/CD CONCURS, EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT LEAR JET
WICHITA BE CONTACTED BY OEC AND ADVISED THAT THEY MAY CONTINUE
SUPPLY JET AVIATION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS FINAL DECISION MADE.
WE ALSO REITERATE PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATION (PARA 4, REF B) THAT
WE SEND LETTER TO JET AVIATION SUGGESTING VISIT TO WASHINGTON
BY OFFICIALS OF FIRM. PLEASE ADVISE BY TELEGRAM OEC ACTION TAKEN.
DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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